

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 02040 091425Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /155 W

----- 079401

R GPOPWEOZ NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9526

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2040

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, AO, ZA

SUBJ: MPLA HIT BY FACTIONAL STRIFE

1. OVER LAST TWO WEEKS EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS FACTIONS WITHIN MPLA. LATEST CLASH REPORTEDLY OCCURRED OCTOBER 20 ABOUT 10 MILES FROM LUSAKA AT MPLA R&R CAMP USED BY NETO FACTION. ELEMENTS BELONGING TO CHIPENDA FACTION SAID TO HAVE ENTERED CAMP AND BEGAN SHOOTING AT ANYONE IN SIGHT. ALTHOUGH INITIAL COMMENTS INDICATED THERE WERE FOUR DEATHS, COREMO'S LUSAKA REP TOLD EMBOFF THIS WEEK NINE ANGOLANS AND ONE ZAMBIAN WERE KILLED. ZAMBIAN DEATH OCCURRED WHEN NEARBY HOUSES HIT BY STRAY BULLETS.

2. SAME SOURCE SAID THIS CLASH PRECEDED BY AT LEAST ONE OTHER NEAR ZAMBIAN-ANGOLAN BORDER, PROBABLY WEST OF KALABO, AT END AUGUST OR EARLYHCEPTEMBER WHICH RESULTED IN SEVENTEEN DEATHS. MPLA PRESIDENT NETO SAID NOT TO BE INVOLVED IN EITHER CLASH. FORMER MPLA VICE PRESIDENT CHIPENDA HAS BEEN SEEN IN LUSAKA THIS WEEK.

3. NONE OF ABOVE HAS BEEN REPORTED BY LOCAL PRESS. EMBOFF TRIED
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OBTAIN MPLA COMMENT BUT LAS TOLD LUSAKA REP "OUT OF COUNTRY."
ZAMBIAN AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY RELUCTANT INTERVENE IN INTERNAL
MPLA MATTER.

4. COMMENT. CONTINUED LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE WITHIN MPLA UNDOUBTEDLY
HAS AFFECTED MOVEMENT'S OFFENSIVE CAPABILITIES. UNLESS NETO
MANAGES RESUME EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF ORGANIZATION IN NEAR FUTURE,
IT CONCEIVABLE MPLA MAY BE FINISHED AS NATIONAL MOVEMENT WITH
DISSIDENT ELEMENTS GOING OVER TO UNITA WHICH CONTINUES BE
ACTIVE IN EAST-CENTRAL ANGOLA.
WILKOWSKI

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: PINS, AO, ZA
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KINSHASA
LISBON
LUANDA
LUBUMBASHI
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